

TOWN AND COUNTY ROADS and RIGHT-OF-WAY COMMITTEE

Annual Report FY2006

Allen B. Reinhard, Chairman
Charles Sayle III, Vice Chairman
John Stackpole, Secretary
Nat Lowell
Sylvie O'Donnell
Donald Visco
Harvey Young

The Town and County Roads and Right-of-Way Committee evolved in 1993 from two committees, the Proprietors Roads Committee and the Right-of-Way Committee. Our mission is to review and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen or County Commissioners regarding any and all issues concerning public and private roads, right-of-ways, abutter's ways and public ways. Town officials, community members or other boards and commissions, bring issues to our attention.

In November 2005, our committee reorganized with new officers as three vacancies had been created in the spring. Since November, the committee has updated the priority road takings list and had it endorsed by the County Commissioners. We also completed the taking of Indian Avenue (also known as Steps Beach) from Lincoln Circle to the mean low water line. The stairs to "Steps Beach" is now a public way. We also submitted petitions and plans for takings of Washing Pond Road from Cliff Road to the mean low water line next to Capaum Pond, and submitted a petition and plans for taking of roads in Madaket including Tennessee Avenue and other streets including a portion of K Street which accesses public property on Hither Creek.

Access to the Old Settlers Burial Ground off Cliff Road has been an on going project for the past several years. The twenty-foot way across the former Bigelow property on Cliff Road is now the only legal access to this important historic site. The Roads and Right-of-Way Committee has been working with the new owner of the property containing the way, the Anglers Club and the Land Bank, abutting property owners, and the Nantucket Historical Association to secure a permanent defined way to access to this site.

The committee also recommended that the County Commissioners and the DPW clear blockages from public ways on West Chester Street from Crooked Lane to Wannacommet Avenue, on Crooked Lane from Madaket Road to Dukes Road, and on Cathcart Road leading to Land Bank property on Nantucket Harbor. These ways were cleared by the DPW this spring.

The committee inquired of the Planning Board the status of takings of ways to the beach at Surfside and will see if an agreement can be reached with the so called

Roads & ROW p. 2

“Surfside Six” property owners by fall of 2006. We also discussed Chapter 91 waterway licenses issued on Nantucket and whether public access of these projects has been complied with. The committee considered establishing a web site containing information and links relating to road and right-of-way issues.

Other issues considered by the committee included: Miller Lane, a six acre Town owned property between Old South Road and the airport, Amelia Drive, Youngs Way and Ticcoma Way, Sesachacha Pond Road, Wauwinet Road, and Spruce Street next to Marine Home Center. The situation at Bacus Lane near the ice rink and First Way was also considered with a recommendation that a traffic study be conducted looking a traffic safety and flow through this area.

The Roads and Right-of-Way Committee began work on a Right of Way Improvement Plan to be presented to Town Officials in the winter of 2006. This plan should clarify which roads are public and which are private, the location of public ways to the water, and give a summary of how our roads and system of rights-of-way came about on Nantucket, and the public’s rights and responsibilities regarding their use. Also included will be a plan for a system of walking paths linking public property throughout the island and other recommendations for improving the public’s right to access beaches, ponds, moors, plains and other lands of Nantucket County.

Allen B. Reinhard, Chairman